

F. CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for immobilizing a patient and compressing a patient's skeleton, joints and spine during imaging with either an MRI unit, CT Scan unit, or x-ray unit.
2. An apparatus for immobilizing a patient and compressing a patient's skeleton, joints and spine during imaging with either an MRI unit, CT Scan unit, or x-ray unit comprising:
 - a. a patient resting surface;
 - b. shoulder and chest immobilizers attached to first end of the patient resting surface;
 - c. knee immobilizers attached to the second end of the patient resting surface;
 - d. leg immobilizers attached to the second end of the patient resting surface;
 - e. a pressure creating apparatus attached to the second end of the patient resting surface; and
 - f. feet immobilizers attached to the pressure creating apparatus.
3. The patient resting surface in claim **2a**, wherein the patient resting surface comprises:
 - a. a first rigid panel for support and positioning of the shoulders and back of a supine patient to be diagnosed with either an MRI unit, CT Scan unit, or x-ray unit;
 - b. a second rigid panel for support and positioning of the lower body of a supine patient to be diagnosed with either an MRI unit, CT Scan unit, or x-ray unit connected to the first rigid panel.
4. The patient resting surface in claim **2a**, wherein the patient resting surface comprises:
 - a. a single rigid panel for support and positioning of a supine patient to be diagnosed with either an MRI unit, CT Scan unit, or x-ray unit.
5. The shoulder and chest immobilizers of claim **2b**, wherein the shoulder and chest immobilizers comprise:
 - a. straps which are arranged around the shoulders and chest of a supine patient and attached to the patient resting surface, the straps securing the shoulders and chest of the supine patient to the first end of the patient resting surface.
6. The knee immobilizers of claim **2c**, wherein the knee immobilizers comprise:
 - a. straps which are arranged around the knee or knees of a supine patient and attached to the patient resting surface, the straps securing the knee or knees of the supine patient to the second end of the patient resting surface.
7. The lower leg immobilizers of claim **2d**, wherein the lower leg immobilizers comprise:
 - a. straps which are arranged around the lower leg or legs of a supine patient and attached to the patient resting surface, the straps securing the lower leg or legs of the supine patient to the second end of the patient resting surface.
8. The pressure creating apparatus in claim **2e**, wherein the pressure creating apparatus comprises:
 - a. first and second elastic media;
 - b. an anchor which attaches to the second end of the patient resting surface and supports and anchors the first and second elastic media;

- c. first and second pressure transferring plungers which transfer the pressure from the first and second elastic media;
 - d. a foot plate which rests upon the first and second pressure transferring plungers and receives upward pressure therefrom.
9. The feet immobilizers in claim **2f**, wherein the feet immobilizers comprise:
 - a. straps which are arranged around the foot or feet of a supine patient and attached to the pressure creating device, the straps securing the foot or feet of the supine patient to the pressure creating device.
10. The first and second elastic media in claim **8a**, wherein the first and second elastic media comprise:
 - a. a first and second length of shock chord.
11. The first and second elastic media in claim **8a**, wherein the first and second elastic media comprise:
 - a. a first and second length of surgical tubing.
12. The first and second elastic media in claim **8a**, wherein the first and second elastic media comprise:
 - a. a first and second length of bungee chord.
13. The pressure creating apparatus in claim **2e**, wherein the pressure creating apparatus comprises:
 - a. first and second pressure resistant media;
 - b. an anchor which attaches to the second end of the patient resting surface and contains and supports the first and second pressure resistant media;
 - c. first and second pressure transferring plungers which transfer the pressure from the first and second pressure resistant media;
 - d. a foot plate which rests upon the first and second pressure transferring plungers and receives upward pressure therefrom.
14. The first and second pressure resistant media in claim **13a**, wherein the first and second pressure resistant media comprise:
 - a. a first and second coil spring.
15. The first and second pressure resistant media in claim **13a**, wherein the first and second pressure resistant media comprise:
 - a. a first and second viscoelastic rod.
16. The pressure creating apparatus in claim **2e**, wherein the pressure creating apparatus comprises:
 - a. an elastic medium;
 - b. an anchor which attaches to substantially the middle part of the patient resting surface and supports and anchors the elastic medium;
 - c. a foot plate which slides longitudinally along the patient resting surface and is suspended from the elastic medium and receives upward pressure therefrom.
17. The elastic medium in claim **16**, wherein the elastic medium comprises:
 - a. a length of shock chord.
18. The elastic medium in claim **16**, wherein the elastic medium comprises:
 - a. a length of surgical tubing.
19. The elastic medium in claim **16**, wherein the elastic medium comprises:
 - a. a length of bungee chord.

20. A method for immobilizing a patient and compressing a patient's skeleton, joints and spine during imaging with either an MRI unit, CT Scan unit, and x-ray unit wherein the method comprises: placing a patient in the supine position on the patient resting surface; securing of the supine patient's shoulders and chest to the patient resting surface with the shoulder and chest immobilizers; then applying an upward force to the feet of the patient with the pressure creating apparatus; after which the patient's knee or knees are secured to the patient resting surface with the knee immobilizers; after which the patient's lower leg or legs are secured to the patient resting surface with the lower leg immobilizers; after which the patient's foot or feet are secured to the pressure creating apparatus; whereby substantially all of the patient's body is immobilized and the patient's skeleton, joints and spine are compressed.